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# On the Woronowicz's twisted product construction of quantum groups, with comments on related cubic Hecke algebra. \*

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## Abstract

We study the construction of compact quantum groups, based on the method invented by Woronowicz [SLW3], which uses a *twisted determinant*. As an example Woronowicz considered the function  $S_N \ni \sigma \mapsto \text{inv}(\sigma)$ , where  $\text{inv}(\sigma)$  is the number of inversions in the permutation  $\sigma$ . Our twisted determinant is related to the function  $S_N \ni \sigma \mapsto c(\sigma)$ , where  $c(\sigma)$  is the number of cycles in a permutation  $\sigma$ . For  $N = 3$  it gave the quantum group  $U_q(2)$ . Here we show how the construction works if  $N = 4$ . We also describe the cubic Hecke algebra, associated with the quantum group  $U_q(2)$ .

## 1 Introduction

In [SLW3] Woronowicz provided a general method for constructing compact matrix quantum groups. The method depends on finding an  $N^N$ -element array  $E = (E_{i_1, \dots, i_N})_{i_1, \dots, i_N=1}^N$  of complex numbers, called *twisted determinant*, which is (left and right) non-degenerate. Theorem 1.4 of [SLW3] says that if a  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ , is generated by  $N^2$  elements  $u_{jk}$  which satisfy the unitarity condition:

$$\sum_{r=1}^N u_{jr}^* u_{rk} = \delta_{jk} I = \sum_{r=1}^N u_{jr} u_{rk}^*$$

and the following twisted determinant condition:

$$\sum_{k_1, \dots, k_N=1}^N u_{j_1 k_1} \dots u_{j_N k_N} E_{k_1, \dots, k_N} = E_{j_1, \dots, j_N} I$$

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and if the array  $E$  is non-degenerate, then  $(\mathcal{A}, u)$  is a compact matrix quantum group, where  $u = (u_{jk})_{j,k=1}^N$ . Woronowicz described the following example. For  $\mu \in (0, 1]$ , he defined

$$E_{i_1, \dots, i_N} = (-\mu)^{\text{inv}(\sigma)} \quad \text{if } \sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & N \\ i_1 & i_2 & \dots & i_N \end{pmatrix} \in S_N$$

is a permutation ( $S_N$  denotes the set of permutations of  $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ ) and  $E_{i_1, \dots, i_N} = 0$  otherwise. Here, for a permutation  $\sigma \in S_N$ ,  $\text{inv}(\sigma)$  is the number of inversions of  $\sigma$ , which is the number of pairs  $(j, k)$  such that  $j < k$  and  $i_j = \sigma(j) > \sigma(k) = i_k$ . Then as  $(\mathcal{A}, u)$  one gets the quantum group  $S_\mu U(N)$ , called the *twisted*  $SU(N)$  group.

In [W3] we considered another array  $E$  for  $N = 3$ , related to the number of cycles in a permutation. It was defined for a parameter  $0 < q < 1$  as follows:

$$E(i, j, k) = \begin{cases} (-q)^{3-c(i,j,k)} & \text{if } \{i, j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Here  $c(i, j, k)$  is the number of cycles of the permutation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ i & j & k \end{pmatrix}$$

(which makes sense if and only if  $\{i, j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ). Then, following the Woronowicz's scheme, we obtained a quantum group, which turned out to be  $U_q(2)$ , the quantum deformation of the unitary  $2 \times 2$  group. Moreover, the construction provided a description of it as a *twisted product* of its quantum subgroups

$$U_q(2) = SU_q(2) \ltimes_\sigma U(1)$$

with the  $*$ -isomorphism  $\sigma : \mathcal{A}_1 \otimes \mathcal{A}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_2 \otimes \mathcal{A}_1$  given by

$$\sigma(1 \otimes v) = v \otimes 1, \quad \sigma(a \otimes v^k) = v^k \otimes a, \quad \sigma(c \otimes v^k) = v^{k-1} \otimes c.$$

The natural continuation of the construction given in [W3], was investigating the cases  $N \geq 4$ . However, as shall see below, after some tiresome computations it turned out that for  $N = 4$  (and thus also for all  $N \geq 4$ ) the quantum group we obtain (via the Woronowicz's theorem) is classical abelian.

Regarding the quantum group  $U_q(2)$ , we shall present also a construction of a cubic Hecke algebra. In [SLW3] Woronowicz showed that there are Hecke algebras associated with the quantum groups  $SU_q(N)$ , for every  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $N \geq 2$ . The Hecke algebra  $H_{q,n}$  described the intertwining operators for the  $n^{\text{th}}$  tensor power of the fundamental representation of the group. In this note we shall show similar construction for  $U_q(2)$ . The construction depends on defining an operator  $\alpha : \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3 \mapsto \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$ , which satisfies the Yang-Baxter equation (3.1). The operator is not self-adjoint (contrary to the  $SU_q(N)$  cases), although its square is so ( $\alpha^2 = (\alpha^*)^2$ ). Nevertheless, it satisfies a generalization of the Hecke equation, namely  $(\alpha^2 - I)(\alpha + q^2 I) = 0$  (see (4.1)). Therefore the operators  $h_j := I_j \otimes \alpha \otimes I_{n-j-2}$ , defined for  $j = 1, \dots, n-2$ , generate a *cubic Hecke algebra* (Theorem 4.3).

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we give the computation showing the generalization of our  $U_q(2)$  construction, for  $N = 4$ . Then, in Section 3, we give the construction of the operator  $\alpha$ , and show that it satisfies the Yang-Baxter equation. The last Section 4, contains the construction of the cubic Hecke algebra, associated with  $U_q(2)$ . In particular, we show there that  $\alpha$  satisfies the cubic equation.

## 2 The construction associated with $E$

Let  $N_4 = \{(i, j, k, l) : \{i, j, k, l\} \subset \{1, 2, 3, 4\}\}$ , let  $E : N_4 \mapsto \mathbb{C}$  be zero outside  $S_4 \subset N_4$ , where the inclusion is given by  $(i, j, k, l) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ i & j & k & l \end{pmatrix}$  if  $\{i, j, k, l\} = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ , and, for  $0 < q < 1$ , let the (non-zero) values of  $E$  (with the notation  $E((i, j, k, l)) = E_{ijkl}$ ) be given by the function

$$S_4 \ni \sigma \mapsto (-q)^{4-c(\sigma)}.$$

Explicitely, it can be written in the following way:

$$\begin{array}{llllll} E_{1234} = 1 & E_{1243} = -q & E_{1324} = -q & E_{1342} = q^2 & E_{1423} = q^2 & E_{1432} = -q \\ E_{2134} = -q & E_{2143} = q^2 & E_{2314} = q^2 & E_{2341} = -q^3 & E_{2413} = -q^3 & E_{2431} = q^2 \\ E_{3124} = q^2 & E_{3142} = -q^3 & E_{3214} = -q & E_{3241} = q^2 & E_{3412} = q^2 & E_{3421} = -q^3 \\ E_{4123} = -q^3 & E_{4132} = q^2 & E_{4213} = q^2 & E_{4231} = -q & E_{4312} = -q^3 & E_{4321} = q^2 \end{array} \quad (2.1)$$

The function  $S_4 \ni \sigma \mapsto 4 - c(\sigma) = t(\sigma)$  counts the *number of transpositions* in  $\sigma$ . It follows from [SLW3], Theorem 4.1, that this way we obtain a compact quantum group  $(\mathcal{A}, \mathbf{u})$ , where  $\mathcal{A}$  is the  $C^*$ -algebra generated by 16 matrix elements  $\{u_{jk} : 1 \leq j, k \leq 4\}$  of  $\mathbf{u}$ , which satisfy the unitarity condition:

$$\sum_{r=1}^4 u_{jr}^* u_{rk} = \delta_{jk} I = \sum_{r=1}^4 u_{jr} u_{rk}^* \quad (2.2)$$

and the twisted determinant condition:

$$\sum_{i,j,k,l=1}^4 u_{\alpha i} u_{\beta j} u_{\gamma k} u_{\delta l} E_{ijkl} = E_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} I \quad (2.3)$$

for each  $\{\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta\} \subset \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . The matrix  $\mathbf{u} = (u_{jk})_{j,k=1}^4$  is the fundamental unitary co-representation of the quantum group. In our case the co-representation  $\mathbf{u} = (u_{kl})_{k,l=1}^4$  is reducible by the following reason. The operator  $P = (E^* \otimes I)(I \otimes E)$ , which acts on  $\mathbb{C}^4$ , intertwines the fundamental representation with itself:  $(P \otimes I)\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(P \otimes I)$ . Moreover,  $P$  has a diagonal matrix for the standard basis of  $\mathbb{C}^4$ :  $P = \text{diag}\{c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4\}$ , with  $c_j = \sum_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma} E_{j\alpha\beta\gamma} E_{\alpha\beta\gamma j}$ , and therefore  $c_1 = c_4 = -(5q^3 + q^5)$ ,  $c_2 = c_3 = -(2q^3 + 4q^5)$ . Hence, for  $q \neq 0, -1, 1$ , which shall be the case in the sequel,  $c_1 \neq c_2$ , so  $P$  is not a multiple of the identity operator  $I$ . The condition  $(P \otimes I)\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{u}(P \otimes I)$  is equivalent to  $c_j \cdot u_{jk} = c_k \cdot u_{jk}$  for all natural numbers  $1 \leq j, k \leq 4$ . This yields  $u_{12} = u_{21} = 0, u_{13} = u_{31} = 0, u_{24} = u_{42} = 0, u_{34} = u_{43} = 0$ , and therefore

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{11} & 0 & 0 & u_{14} \\ 0 & u_{22} & u_{23} & 0 \\ 0 & u_{32} & u_{33} & 0 \\ u_{41} & 0 & 0 & u_{44} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & 0 & b \\ 0 & x & y & 0 \\ 0 & z & w & 0 \\ c & 0 & 0 & d \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.4)$$

This yields the decomposition of  $u$  decomposes into two irreducible subrepresentations

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \oplus \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.5)$$

Substitution in (2.3) of appropriate sequences  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta)$  gives the following relations between the generators of the  $C^*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  (the associated sequence is left of the relation):

$$\begin{array}{llll} (1423) & I = (ad - qbc)(xw - q^{-1}yz) & (1) & (4123) & I = (da - q^{-1}cb)(xw - q^{-1}yz) & (2) \\ (1432) & I = (ad - qbc)(wx - qzy) & (3) & (4132) & I = (da - q^{-1}cb)(wx - qzy) & (4) \\ (2314) & I = (xw - q^{-1}yz)(ad - qbc) & (5) & (2341) & I = (xw - q^{-1}yz)(da - q^{-1}cb) & (6) \\ (3214) & I = (wx - qzy)(ad - qbc) & (7) & (3241) & I = (wx - qzy)(da - q^{-1}cb) & (8) \end{array}$$

Let  $W = ad - qbc$  and  $V = xw - q^{-1}yz$ , then the above relation give  $VW = I = WV$  and also  $W = da - q^{-1}cb$ ,  $V = wx - qzy$ . Hence these relations are pairwise equivalent:  $(1) \Leftrightarrow (5)$ ,  $(2) \Leftrightarrow (6)$ ,  $(3) \Leftrightarrow (7)$  and  $(4) \Leftrightarrow (8)$ . The operators  $V$ ,  $W$ , being the inverse of each other, are twisted determinants for the two matrix co-representations:

$$W = \det_q \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, V = \det_{q^{-1}} \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.6)$$

Let us observe here that a change of order in the basis for  $\begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}$  gives us the matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} w & z \\ y & x \end{pmatrix}$  which satisfies the same relations and for which the twisted determinant is

$$\det_q \begin{pmatrix} w & z \\ y & x \end{pmatrix} = wx - qzy = V. \quad (2.7)$$

Using the invertibility of  $W$  and  $V$  one can easily get the following relations:

$$\begin{array}{llll} (1123) & ab = qba & (9) & (2214) & cd = qdc & (10) \\ (4423) & yx = qxy & (11) & (3314) & wz = qzw & (12) \end{array}$$

In addition, the relations (2.2) can be written as:

$$\begin{array}{llll} I = aa^* + bb^* & (13) & I = cc^* + dd^* & (14) \\ I = a^*a + c^*c & (15) & I = b^*b + d^*d & (16) \\ 0 = a^*b + c^*d & (17) & 0 = ca^* + db^* & (18) \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{llll} I = xx^* + yy^* & (19) & I = zz^* + ww^* & (20) \\ I = x^*x + z^*z & (21) & I = y^*y + w^*w & (22) \\ 0 = x^*y + z^*w & (23) & 0 = zx^* + wy^* & (24) \end{array}$$

Multiplication of (16) from the left by  $a^*$  and using (9) and then (17) gives the equation  $d^*W = a$ , or, equivalently,  $d = V^*a^*$ . On the other hand, multiplication (15) from the right by  $d$  and using (10) and (17) gives  $d = a^*W$ . These two combined ensure also that  $W^*a = aV$ . Similarly, by multiplying (16) from the right by  $c$  and using (10) and then (17) one gets  $b^*W = -qc$ , or equivalently,  $b^* = -qcV$ . Then, multiplying (15) from the right by  $b$  and using (9) and (17) one obtains  $b = -qc^*W$ . These two yield also  $cV = W^*c$ . Therefore we have

$$d = V^*a^* = a^*W, \quad b = -qV^*c^* = -qc^*W; \quad (2.8)$$

$$x = w^*V = W^*w^*, \quad z = -qy^*V = -qW^*y^*. \quad (2.9)$$

There are also other relations obtained from (2.3). They are listed in the following, with the associated sequences  $(\alpha\beta\gamma\delta)$  on the left-hand side:

$$(2143) \quad I = x(ad - qbc)w - qy(ad - q^{-1}bc)z \quad (25)$$

$$(2413) \quad I = x(da - q^{-1}cb)w - q^{-1}y(da - qcb)z \quad (26)$$

$$(3142) \quad I = w(ad - q^{-1}bc)x - q^{-1}z(ad - qbc)y \quad (27)$$

$$(3412) \quad I = w(da - qcb)x - qz(da - q^{-1}cb)y \quad (28)$$

and

$$(1234) \quad I = a(xw - qyz)d - qb(xw - qyz)c \quad (29)$$

$$(4231) \quad I = d(xw - qyz)a - q^{-1}c(xw - qyz)b \quad (30)$$

$$(1324) \quad I = a(wx - q^{-1}zy)d - qb(wx - q^{-1}zy)c \quad (31)$$

$$(4321) \quad I = d(wx - q^{-1}zy)a - q^{-1}c(wx - q^{-1}zy)b \quad (32)$$

From now on we shall assume the following additional relation:

$$V = W^* \quad (2.10)$$

meaning that the twisted determinants are unitary operators. This yields that we are dealing with the quantum groups  $U_q(2)$  (for the generators  $a, b, c, d$ ) and another copy of  $U_q(2)$  (for the generators  $w, y, z, x$ ). This assumption is also necessary to allow the technical procedure used in [W3].

Let us substitute (2.8) into the (1) - (32). In (1) - (8) we do the substitution in one of the bracket and put  $V$  or  $V^*$  for the other. Thus for each equation we get two:

$$\begin{aligned} VaV^*a^* + q^2c^*c &= 1 \quad (1'a) & w^*VwV^* + yy^* &= 1 \quad (1'b) \\ a^*a + VcV^*c^* &= 1 \quad (2'a) & w^*VwV^* + yy^* &= 1 \quad (2'b) \\ VaV^*a^* + q^2c^*c &= 1 \quad (3'a) & ww^* + q^2y^*VyV^* &= 1 \quad (3'b) \\ a^*a + VcV^*c^* &= 1 \quad (4'a) & ww^* + q^2y^*VyV^* &= 1 \quad (4'b) \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

We see that  $(1'a) \Leftrightarrow (3'a)$ ,  $(2'a) \Leftrightarrow (4'a)$ ,  $(1'b) \Leftrightarrow (2'b)$  and  $(3'b) \Leftrightarrow (4'b)$ . For (9) - (12) we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} cVa^* &= qa^*cV \quad (9') & aVc^* &= qc^*aV \quad (10') \\ yw^*V &= qw^*Vy \quad (11') & wy^*V &= qy^*Vw \quad (12') \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

The relation (13) - (18) give:

$$\begin{aligned} aa^* + q^2V^*c^*cV &= 1 \quad (13') & cc^* + V^*a^*aV &= 1 \quad (14') \\ a^*a + c^*c &= 1 \quad (15') & aa^* + q^2cc^* &= 1 \quad (16') \\ aVc &= qcVa \quad (17') & Vca^* &= qa^*cV \quad (18') \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

and for (19) - (24) we get:

$$\begin{aligned} w^*w + yy^* &= 1 \quad (19') & ww^* + q^2y^*y &= 1 \quad (20') \\ ww^* + q^2yy^* &= 1 \quad (21') & w^*w + y^*y &= 1 \quad (22') \\ wy &= qyw \quad (23') & wy^* &= qy^*w \quad (24') \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

Let us first deal with the relations (2.14) involving  $w$  and  $y$ . Comparing (19') with (21') one gets easily that  $y$  is normal:  $yy^* = y^*y$ . Comparing (3'b) with (20') gives

$$y^*Vy = y^*yV \quad (2.15)$$

and (1'b) with (19') yield

$$w^*Vw = w^*wV. \quad (2.16)$$

Putting (24') into (11') gives

$$w^*yV = w^*Vy. \quad (2.17)$$

Multiplying both sides of (2.16) this from the left by  $w$  provides  $ww^*yV = ww^*Vy$ . Similarly, multiplying (2.14) from the right by  $y$  gives  $yy^*Vy = yy^*yV$ . Adding these two side by side yields

$$Vy = yV. \quad (2.18)$$

In a similar manner one gets

$$Vw = wV. \quad (2.19)$$

This requires putting (24') into (12') to get  $y^*wV = y^*Vw$  which is then multiplied from the left by  $q^2y$  and added side by side to  $ww^*Vw = ww^*wV$ , which is obtained from (2.15). These can be collected together as the following relations:

$$\begin{aligned} w^*w + y^*y &= 1 & ww^* + q^2yy^* &= 1 \\ wy &= qyw & wy^* &= qy^*w \\ yy^* &= y^*y \\ wV &= Vw & yV &= Vy \end{aligned} \quad (2.20)$$

The fundamental co-representation is thus  $\begin{pmatrix} w^*V & y \\ -qy^*V & w \end{pmatrix}$  and the above relations define the  $C^*$ -algebra of  $U_q(2)$ , and  $V$  is the  $(-q)^{-1}$ -determinant.

Let us now work with the relations for  $a$  and  $c$ . From (4') and (15') one deduces that  $cVc^* = c^*cV$ . Then, multiplying (9') from the right by  $a$  one gets  $cVaa^* = qa^*cVa$ . The left-hand side of this can be transformed as follows (using (15')):

$$cVaa^* = cV(1 - c^*c) = cV - (cVc^*)c = cV - c^*cVc.$$

For the right-hand side one can use (17') and then (15') to get:

$$qa^*cVa = a^*aVc = (1 - cc^*)Vc = Vc - c^*cVc.$$

It follows from these two that  $cV = Vc$ , and also  $c^*V = Vc^*$ , since  $V$  is unitary. Using this combined with (14') and (15') one obtains  $cc^* = c^*c$ , so  $c$  is normal. Then from (10') follows  $ac^* = qc^*a$ . Comparing (1'a) with (16') one concludes  $aVa^* = aa^*V$ . Then, multiplication of (17') by  $c^*$  from the right gives  $aVcc^* = qcVac^*$ . The left-hand side of this is  $aV - aa^*Va$ . The right-hand side of this can be transformed, with the help of the above relations, into:

$$qcVac^* = q^2cVc^*a = q^2c^*cVa = Va - aa^*Va.$$

Hence one concludes  $aV = Va$ , and also  $a^*V = Va^*$ . Therefore the above relations may be written as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} a^*a + c^*c &= 1 & aa^* + q^2cc^* &= 1 \\ ac &= qca & ac^* &= qc^*a \\ cc^* &= c^*c \\ aV &= Va & cV &= Vc \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

For  $N = 4$  we have more nontrivial relations between  $a, c, w, y$  given by (2.3) then in the case  $N = 3$ , since, for example the sequence  $(1, 1, 2, 2)$  gives a nontrivial relation here, and gave trivial relation there. Let us write them as follows, indicating the associated sequence  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta)$  on the left-hand side of it and successive numbering on the right-hand side of it. In the first set of equations we put elements from the same  $C^*$ -subalgebra outside, and the other inside.

$$\begin{aligned} (1231) \quad a(xw - qyz)b &= qb(xw - qyz)a & (33) \\ (1321) \quad a(wx - \frac{1}{q}zy)b &= qb(wx - \frac{1}{q}zy)a & (34) \\ (4234) \quad c(xw - qyz)d &= qd(xw - qyz)c & (35) \\ (4324) \quad c(wx - \frac{1}{q}zy)d &= qd(wx - \frac{1}{q}zy)c & (36) \\ (2142) \quad x(ad - qbc)y &= qy(ad - \frac{1}{q}bc)x & (37) \\ (2412) \quad y(da - qcb)x &= qx(da - \frac{1}{q}cb)y & (38) \\ (3143) \quad z(ad - qbc)w &= qw(ad - \frac{1}{q}bc)z & (39) \\ (3413) \quad w(da - qcb)z &= qz(da - \frac{1}{q}cb)w & (40) \\ (1224) \quad axyd &= qbxyc, \quad ayxd = qbyxc & (41) \\ (4221) \quad cxyb &= qdxya, \quad cyxb = qdyxa & (42) \\ (1334) \quad azwd &= qbzwc, \quad awzd = qbwzc & (43) \\ (4331) \quad czwb &= qdzwa, \quad cwzb = qdwza & (44) \\ (2113) \quad yabz &= 0 = ybaz & (45) \\ (3112) \quad wabx &= 0 = wbar & (46) \\ (2443) \quad ydcz &= 0 = ycdz & (47) \\ (3442) \quad wdcx &= 0 = wcdx & (48) \end{aligned} \quad (2.22)$$

In the second set of equations we have alternating sequences of elements from different  $C^*$ -subalgebras.

$$\begin{aligned} (1243) \quad axdw - qaydz - qbxcw + q^2bycz &= I & (49) \\ (4213) \quad dxaw - qdyaz - \frac{1}{q}cxbw + cybz &= I & (50) \\ (1342) \quad awdx - \frac{1}{q}azdy - qbwcx + bzcy &= I & (51) \\ (4312) \quad dwa x - \frac{1}{q}dzay - \frac{1}{q}cwbx + \frac{1}{q^2}czby &= I & (52) \\ (2134) \quad xawd - qxbwc - qyazd + q^2ybzc &= I & (53) \\ (3124) \quad waxd - qwbxc - \frac{1}{q}zayd + zbyc &= I & (54) \\ (2431) \quad xdwa - \frac{1}{q}xcwb - qydza + yczb &= I & (55) \\ (3421) \quad wdx a - \frac{1}{q}wcxb - \frac{1}{q}zdya + \frac{1}{q^2}zcyb &= I & (56) \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

Computing

$$\begin{aligned} xw - qyz &= V - (1 - q^2)yy^*V \\ wx - \frac{1}{q}zy &= V + (1 - q^2)yy^*V \\ ad - \frac{1}{q}bc &= V^* + (1 - q^2)cc^*V^* \\ da - qcb &= V^* - (1 - q^2)cc^*V^* \end{aligned} \quad (2.24)$$



and substituting these into (2.22) one obtains

$$\begin{aligned}
a y y^* c^* &= q c^* y y^* a & (33'), (34') \\
c y y^* a^* &= q a^* y y^* c & (35'), (36') \\
w^* y &= q y c c^* w^* & (37'), (39') \\
y c c^* w^* &= 0 & (38') \\
w c c^* y^* &= 0 & (40') \\
a w^* y a^* + q^2 c^* w^* y c &= 0 & (41'), (43') \\
a^* w^* y a + c w^* y c^* &= 0 & (42'), (44') \\
y a c^* y^* &= 0 & (45') \\
w a c^* w^* &= 0 & (46') \\
y a^* c y^* &= 0 & (47') \\
w a^* c w^* &= 0 & (48')
\end{aligned} \tag{2.25}$$

Unfortunately, (37') combined with (38') give

$$w^* y = 0$$

and it follows from (2.20) that  $y = 0$ . To see this let us observe that  $w w^* y y^* + q^2 y y^* y y^* = y y^*$  implies  $q^2 (y y^*)^2 = y y^*$ , and hence, by induction,  $q^{2n} (y y^*)^{n+1} = y y^*$  for any positive integer  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . This yields that the spectral radius  $r(y y^*) = \lim_n \|(y y^*)^n\|^{\frac{1}{n}}$  satisfies  $r(y y^*) = q^{-2} > 1$ . However, it follows from the description of the irreducible representations of the relations (2.20) (see [W3]) that  $\|y\| \leq 1$ , so that  $r(y y^*) \leq 1$ . This is a contradiction, except  $y = 0$ .

Then  $xw = V = wx$  and  $xx^* = 1 = x^*x$ ,  $ww^* = 1 = w^*w$ , so that  $x, w$  are unitary. Moreover  $x = w^*V$ , so that for the fundamental co-representation eventually we get  $\begin{pmatrix} w^*V & 0 \\ 0 & w \end{pmatrix}$ . In a similar manner one gets that

$$a^*c = 0$$

and hence  $c = 0$ . Substitution of these to (2.23) gives

$$a w a^* w^* = 1 = a^* w^* a w.$$

If we set  $t := aw$  and  $s := wa$ , then  $tt^* = 1 = t^*t$ ,  $ss^* = 1 = s^*s$  and  $ts^* = 1 = s^*t$ . Therefore  $t = s$ , which gives  $aw = wa$ .

These computations show that the  $C^*$ -algebra of the constructed quantum group is generated by three commuting unitaries  $a, w, V$ , so it is isomorphic to  $C(\mathbb{T}) \otimes C(\mathbb{T}) \otimes C(\mathbb{T})$ . Therefore, the quantum group we consider is in fact the classical group  $U(1) \times U(1) \times U(1)$ .

### 3 The Yang-Baxter operator associated with $U_q(2)$

In the next two Sections we are going to show a construction of a cubic Hecke algebra associated with the quantum group  $U_q(2)$ . In [W3] we gave a construction of the quantum group  $U_q(2)$ , in which the crucial role is played by the function counting the number of cycles in permutations from the symmetric group  $S_3$ . Namely, by considering the function  $S_3 \ni \sigma \mapsto (-q)^{3 - c(\sigma)}$ , where  $c(\sigma)$  is the number of cycles and  $q > 0$ , we constructed the following array:

$$\begin{aligned}
E_{1,2,3} &= 1 & E_{1,3,2} &= E_{2,1,3} = E_{3,2,1} = -q \\
E_{2,3,1} &= E_{3,1,2} = q^2 & E_{i,j,k} &= 0 \text{ if } \{i, j, k\} \subsetneq \{1, 2, 3\}
\end{aligned}$$

This array defines an operator  $\rho$  on  $\mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$  by

$$\rho : \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3 \ni (a, b) \mapsto \sum_{i,j,k=1}^3 E_{i,j,k} E_{k,a,b}(i, j) \in \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3, \quad (3.26)$$

where  $(a, b)$  denotes in short the standard basis element  $\varepsilon_a \otimes \varepsilon_b$ . In particular  $\varepsilon_1 = (1, 0, 0)$ ,  $\varepsilon_2 = (0, 1, 0)$  and  $\varepsilon_3 = (0, 0, 1)$ .

The definition of  $E$  implies that (3.26) simplifies to

$$\rho(a, b) = E_{a,b,k} E_{k,a,b}(a, b) + E_{b,a,k} E_{k,a,b}(b, a), \quad \text{where } \{a, b, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\} \quad (3.27)$$

for  $a \neq b$  and  $a, b = 1, 2, 3$ . If  $a = b$  then we get  $\rho(a, a) = 0$ . The formulas can be written explicitly as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(1, 2) &= E_{1,2,3} E_{3,1,2}(1, 2) + E_{2,1,3} E_{3,1,2}(2, 1) = q^2(1, 2) + q^3(2, 1) \\ \rho(2, 1) &= E_{2,1,3} E_{3,2,1}(2, 1) + E_{1,2,3} E_{3,2,1}(1, 2) = q^2(2, 1) + q(1, 2) \\ \rho(1, 3) &= E_{1,3,2} E_{2,1,3}(1, 3) + E_{3,1,2} E_{2,1,3}(3, 1) = q^2(1, 3) + q^3(3, 1) \\ \rho(3, 1) &= E_{3,1,2} E_{2,3,1}(3, 1) + E_{1,3,2} E_{2,3,1}(1, 3) = q^4(3, 1) + q^3(1, 3) \\ \rho(2, 3) &= E_{2,3,1} E_{1,2,3}(2, 3) + E_{3,2,1} E_{1,2,3}(3, 2) = q^2(2, 3) + q(3, 2) \\ \rho(3, 2) &= E_{3,2,1} E_{1,3,2}(3, 2) + E_{2,3,1} E_{1,3,2}(2, 3) = q^2(3, 2) + q^3(2, 3) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the operator  $\alpha := I_2 - \frac{1}{q^2} \rho$  acts as:  $\alpha(a, a) = (a, a)$  for  $a = 1, 2, 3$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(1, 2) &= -q(2, 1) \\ \alpha(1, 3) &= -q(3, 1) \\ \alpha(3, 2) &= -q(2, 3) \\ \alpha(2, 1) &= -q^{-1}(1, 2) \\ \alpha(2, 3) &= -q^{-1}(3, 2) \\ \alpha(3, 1) &= (1 - q^2)(3, 1) - q(1, 3) \end{aligned} \quad (3.28)$$

This operator is not self-adjoint, but  $\alpha^2 = (\alpha^2)^*$  is so, since

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^2(1, 2) &= (2, 1) \\ \alpha^2(2, 1) &= (2, 1) \\ \alpha^2(2, 3) &= (3, 2) \\ \alpha^2(3, 2) &= (2, 3) \\ \alpha^2(1, 3) &= q^2(1, 3) - q(1 - q^2)(3, 1) \\ \alpha^2(3, 1) &= (1 - q^2 + q^4)(3, 1) - q(1 - q^2)(1, 3) \end{aligned} \quad (3.29)$$

The first important property of  $\alpha$  is that it is a Yang-Baxter operator.

**Proposition 3.1** *The operator  $\alpha$  satisfies the Yang-Baxter equation*

$$(\alpha \otimes I)(I \otimes \alpha)(\alpha \otimes I) = (I \otimes \alpha)(\alpha \otimes I)(I \otimes \alpha). \quad (3.30)$$

**Proof:** Let  $L = (\alpha \otimes I)(I \otimes \alpha)(\alpha \otimes I)$  be the left-hand side and  $P = (I \otimes \alpha)(\alpha \otimes I)(I \otimes \alpha)$  be the right-hand side of (3.30). We have to show that  $L(a, b, c) = P(a, b, c)$  for every  $a, b, c \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  (with the notation:  $(a, b, c) = \varepsilon_a \otimes \varepsilon_b \otimes \varepsilon_c$ ). This requires checking 27 cases. It is clear that  $L(a, a, a) = (a, a, a) = P(a, a, a)$  for any  $a = 1, 2, 3$ . The direct calculation provides the following formulas for the other cases.

$$\begin{aligned}
L(3, 2, 3) &= (3, 2, 3) = P(3, 2, 3) \\
L(2, 3, 2) &= (2, 3, 2) = P(2, 3, 2) \\
L(1, 2, 1) &= (1, 2, 1) = P(1, 2, 1) \\
L(2, 1, 2) &= (2, 1, 2) = P(2, 1, 2) \\
L(1, 2, 3) &= -q(3, 2, 1) = P(1, 2, 3) \\
L(1, 3, 2) &= -q^3(2, 3, 1) = P(1, 3, 2) \\
L(2, 1, 3) &= -q^{-1}(3, 1, 2) = P(3, 1, 2) \\
L(3, 3, 2) &= q^2(2, 3, 3) = P(3, 3, 2) \\
L(2, 2, 3) &= q^2(3, 2, 2) = P(2, 2, 3) \\
L(3, 2, 2) &= q^2(2, 2, 3) = P(3, 2, 2) \\
L(1, 1, 3) &= q^2(3, 1, 1) = P(1, 1, 3) \\
L(1, 3, 3) &= q^2(3, 3, 1) = P(1, 3, 3) \\
L(1, 1, 2) &= q^2(2, 1, 1) = P(1, 1, 2) \\
L(1, 2, 2) &= q^2(2, 2, 1) = P(1, 2, 2) \\
L(2, 3, 3) &= q^{-2}(3, 3, 2) = P(2, 3, 3) \\
L(2, 1, 1) &= q^{-2}(1, 1, 2) = P(2, 1, 1) \\
L(2, 2, 1) &= q^{-2}(1, 2, 2) = P(2, 2, 1)
\end{aligned} \tag{3.31}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
L(3, 2, 1) &= (1 - q^2)(3, 2, 1) - q(1, 2, 3) = P(3, 2, 1) \\
L(3, 1, 2) &= q^2(1 - q^2)(2, 3, 1) - q^3(2, 1, 3) = P(3, 1, 2) \\
L(2, 3, 1) &= q^{-2}(1 - q^2)(3, 1, 2) - q^{-1}(1, 3, 2) = P(2, 3, 1) \\
L(1, 3, 1) &= -q(1 - q^2)(3, 1, 1) + q^2(1, 3, 1) = P(1, 3, 1) \\
L(3, 1, 3) &= -q(1 - q^2)(3, 3, 1) + q^2(3, 1, 3) = P(3, 1, 3)
\end{aligned} \tag{3.32}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
L(3, 1, 1) &= (1 - q^2)(3, 1, 1) - q(1 - q^2)(1, 3, 1) + q^2(1, 1, 3) = P(3, 1, 1) \\
L(3, 3, 1) &= (1 - q^2)(3, 3, 1) - q(1 - q^2)(3, 1, 3) + q^2(1, 3, 3) = P(3, 3, 1)
\end{aligned} \tag{3.33}$$

From these formulas the Proposition follows.  $\square$

## 4 The cubic Hecke algebra associated with $U_q(2)$

The second important property of the operator  $\alpha$  is that, even though it is not a Hecke operator, it does satisfy a cubic equation, and thus it generates a *cubic Hecke algebra*. This notion has been introduced by Funar in [F], where the cubic equation  $\alpha^3 - I = 0$  was considered.

**Proposition 4.1** *The operator  $\alpha$  satisfies the cubic equation:*

$$(\alpha^2 - I)(\alpha + q^2 I) = 0. \tag{4.34}$$

**Proof:** From the formulas (3.28), defining  $\alpha$  it follows that it acts on the following subspaces by simple matricial formulas.

1. On the span of  $(1, 2), (2, 1)$  as  $\beta := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{-1}{q} \\ -q & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
2. On the span of  $(2, 3), (3, 2)$  as  $\beta^* := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -q \\ \frac{-1}{q} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
3. On the span of  $(1, 3), (3, 1)$  as  $\gamma := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -q \\ -q & 1 - q^2 \end{pmatrix}$
4. As identity on every  $(a, a)$  with  $a = 1, 2, 3$ .

It is strightforward to see that  $\beta^2 - I = 0 = (\beta^*)^2 - I$ . On the other hand, since

$$\gamma^2 = \begin{pmatrix} q^2 & -q(1 - q^2) \\ -q(1 - q^2) & 1 - q^2 + q^4 \end{pmatrix},$$

we obtain

$$(\gamma^2 - I)(\gamma + q^2 I) = (q^2 - 1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & q \\ q & q^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q^2 & -q \\ -q & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore both  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  satisfy the equation (4.34), so the  $\alpha$  does.  $\square$

Let us define the elements

$$h_j := I_j \otimes \alpha \otimes I_{n-j-2} \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n-2, \quad (4.35)$$

where  $I_k$  denotes the identity map on  $(\mathbb{C}^N)^{\otimes k}$ . Then by Propositions 3.1 and 4.1 the elements  $h_1, \dots, h_n$  generate a cubic Hecke algebra, associated with the quantum group  $U_q(2)$ .

**Definition 4.2** *The algebra  $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}(2)$  generated by the elements  $h_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, n$  defined by (4.35) will be called the **cubic Hecke algebra** associated with the quantum group  $U_q(2)$ .*

The basic properties of this algebra are summarized in the following.

**Theorem 4.3** *The generators  $\{h_j : 1 \leq j \leq n\}$  of  $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}(2)$  satisfy:*

$$\begin{aligned} h_j h_{j+1} h_j &= h_{j+1} h_j h_{j+1} && \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n-1, \\ h_j h_k &= h_k h_j && \text{for } |j - k| \geq 2, \\ ((h_j)^2 - 1)(h_j + q^2) &= 0 && \text{for } j = 1, \dots, n. \end{aligned} \quad (4.36)$$

The role of the Hecke algebra in the study of  $SU_q(N)$  was that it was the intertwining algebra of the tensor powers of the fundamental co-representation. In [W3] the irreducible co-representations of  $U_q(2)$  have been described, but it is not clear if the description is complete. So, it is still to be checked whether  $\mathcal{H}_{q,n}(2)$  plays the same role as in  $SU_q(N)$ .

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